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25 JUN 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment  
Executive Secretary, Production Board, NFAC

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: World Energy Outlook

1. I continue to disagree on the issue of whether we should publish an unclassified world energy outlook. I still feel our only shortcoming here is that we have been so dilatory in supplementing the one we did in March 1977.

a. I am considerably disturbed, however, if, in line with Bruce's first paragraph (ER 79-7565), the present analysis has been done so as to make it unclassified. For two and one-half years now I have been trying to establish the principle that we do our work at whatever level of classification is necessary to do it properly for our policymakers. If we can then declassify it without emasculating it beyond usefulness, we should do so. We certainly should not deprive the President, Schlesinger and others of the best analysis we can do because we ultimately want to send it out in unclassified form.

b. Yes, we'll get caught up in some maelstroms and from time to time we'll deliberately avoid them, but that will be the exception. In this case I think the question of the world energy outlook should not get us particularly involved in the domestic issues of whether we go to coal or nuclear power, deregulation, etc. We already took our licks for predicting the world picture when that was still an open question in 1977. Today we can only improve our position, I believe. I still read stories about how people are questioning our forecasts

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on the world and on the Soviet Union. We have a good story to tell and I'd like to do it and be of use to the country in the process.

2. In sum, we've embarked on a policy of greater publication, we've taken most of the brickbats I think we're going to for that policy. Now is not the time to slack off. (On top of that I particularly think we ought to encourage publication by our economists and let them put their names on their work. I repeatedly hear that good economists are reluctant to come work for us because they end up hiding their light under a bushel.)



STANSFIELD TURNER



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